



The Pensioner: *Looking Forward*

Welcome to the digital MPERS newsletter! *The Pensioner: Looking Forward* contains news, updates, and important information for active employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and MPERS.

MPERS Continues to Stay Positive

MPERS' investment staff is doing some truly amazing work.

During a year in which the stock market was less than friendly, MPERS investment staff pulled off an incredible feat...a positive investment return of 3.94% while many of their pension plan peers experienced negative investment returns.

MPERS continues to operate within a diversified portfolio that aided in the positive return for Fiscal Year 2022, ranking MPERS' return in the top 1% of the peer universe. Additionally, MPERS' one-year, three-year, five-year, and ten-year returns all ranked in the top 1% of the public peer universe.

What does this mean to our members? It means that providing sustainable benefits for current and future retirees is, and always will be, our number one focus.



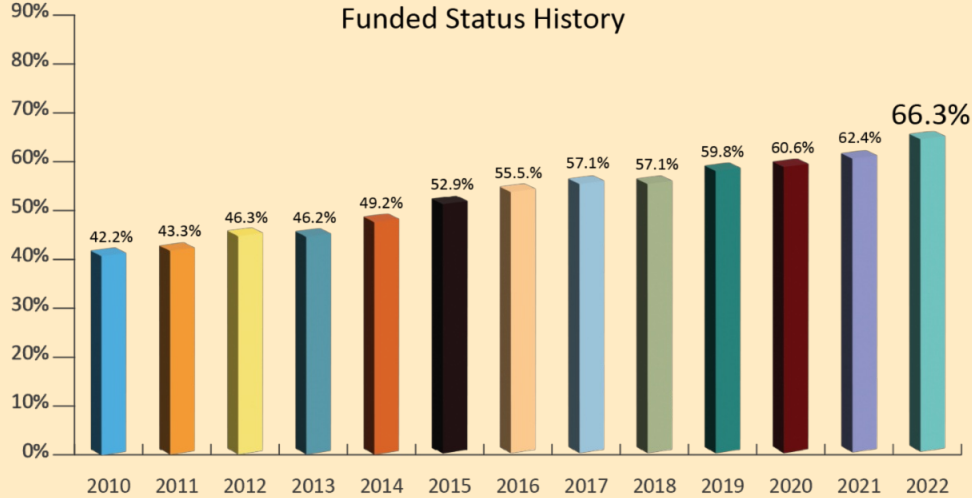
Funded Status Increases to 66.3%



MPERS saw a record increase in funded status of nearly 4% for Fiscal Year 2022. The funded status improved from 62.4% to 66.3%, an increase not seen in over 22 years.

Overall, the funded status has increased a significant 24.1% since 2010!

Funded Status History



This upward continuum is not only attributed to skillful investment decisions by our investment staff, but a commitment by the Board of Trustees to make sure MPERS reaches the funded status of 100% in the not-so-distant future.

[I want to learn more about MPERS' funding policies](#)

MPERS' Retirement Process Satisfaction = A+



MPERS' service reputation with covered members has been solid for some time; however, we are always looking for ways to improve.

Just over a year ago, MPERS' staff made the decision to use Cobalt Community Research to measure our service performance. Cobalt Community Research is a research consultant established in 2007 to provide independent, credible, and cost-effective research. The research service not only provides feedback for specific service areas but also compares our results to other public and private sector organizations conducting the same or similar business.

Over the last year when MPERS' members completed the retirement process, they were surveyed. MPERS' overall score for the last fiscal year was 97, the highest of all survey participants, including other pension plans.

Congratulations to our benefits team! Keep up the stellar work!



Mary Jordan
Senior Benefit Specialist



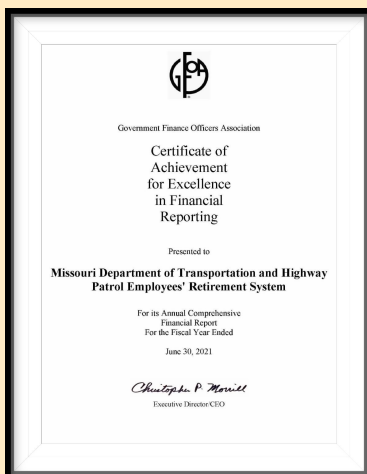
Gabrielle Lewis
Senior Benefit Specialist



Bev Wilson
Benefit Audit Specialist

MPERS Receives Award for 17th Consecutive Year

MPERS was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its FY 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.



The report was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a governmental organization and its management.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.

Congratulations!

[View the award-winning report](#)



Don't Make a Misstep; Retirement Is a Two-Step Process!

You did it. The race is almost complete, and the finish line is within view! Retirement is within your grasp! While you are completing the last moments of your career race, please remember, MPERS has a two-step retirement process. The MPERS' process is separate from (and in addition to) the process the Patrol or MoDOT may have in place.

Step 1

Submit your *Notice of Retirement* to MPERS no later than one month plus one day before your intended retirement date. You can submit the *Notice of Retirement* as early as 120 days prior to your retirement date; however, if you miss the deadline for your intended retirement date, your retirement will be postponed. You will be sad. We will be sad. Nobody wants to be sad.

You can submit the *Notice of Retirement* electronically through your [myMPERS account](#), or you can [complete a paper form](#) and submit it to MPERS. We will also need proof of age and legal residence for you and your spouse, as well as proof of marriage, if you are married.

Notice of Retirement

MPERS MODOT & Patrol Employees' Retirement System

Step 1: Notice of Retirement

Member Information

Intended Date of Retirement: / /

Date of Retirement can only be the first day of the month

Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number: /

Name: (Last, First MI)

Mailing Address: (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Home Phone: Work Phone: Cell Phone: Personal Email Address:

Do you have any of the following prior service credit that could increase your MPERS' service? If so, we recommend you contact a MPERS' benefits specialist as soon as possible at (800) 276-1271. The more service you have, the higher your benefit amount. Prior service must be purchased/transfered before submitting your Notice of Retirement (Step 1).

Marital Status and Spouse Information (Required)

Married members may select a joint and survivor option, which provides a continuing monthly benefit to your eligible spouse after your death. If you are married, please submit an acceptable proof-of-age document and copy of your marriage license. This information will allow us to provide you with a more accurate benefit estimate.

Marital status on the Date of Retirement (check one): Single Married (must provide spouse info)

Spouse's Name: (Last) (First) (MI)

Spouse's Social Security Number: Date of Birth: / / Date of Marriage: / /

To the MODOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) Board of Trustees:

As an employee or former employee of the state of Missouri, I hereby submit my Notice of Retirement to begin receiving retirement benefits from MPERS. I understand this notification will be null and void if I do not have a prearrangement with any employer covered under MPERS or MOERS to return to work after I retire.

Member Signature: Date:

9/21 See reverse side for important information!

Step 2

Once your *Notice of Retirement* is received, we will generate your step-two packet and mail it to the address we have on file. The packet includes:

- *Retirement Election Form*
- *BackDROP Distribution Form* (if applicable)
- *W4-P Substitute* (tax withholding)
- *Direct Deposit Application*
- *\$5,000 Beneficiary Designation Form* (if applicable)
- *Designation of Agent Form*

This packet must be received by MPERS no later than the day prior to your retirement date. If we do not receive the step-two packet prior to your retirement date, your first benefit payment may be delayed.

Retirement Election Form

MPERS MODOT & Patrol Employees' Retirement System

Step 2: Retirement Election Form

Member Information

Social Security Number: / /

Date of Retirement: / /

Date of Birth: / /

Marital Status: Spouse's DOB: / /

Name: (Last, First MI)

Mailing Address: (Address, City, State Zip Code)

Personal Email Address:

Home Phone: Work Phone: Cell Phone:

Retirement Benefit Elections

Select one Retirement Plan: Closed Plan Year 2000 Plan

Select one Benefit Payment Option: #1: Life Income Annuity #2: Joint & 50% Survivor #3: Joint & 100% Survivor #4: 60 Guaranteed Payments #5: 120 Guaranteed Payments #6: 180 Guaranteed Payments

BackDROP Election (only if eligible): If your benefit estimate included BackDROP, please make your election below: I do not wish to elect the BackDROP. I wish to elect the year (maximum BackDROP period).

*If Electing Options #4 or #5 Beneficiary Designation for Final Payment and/or Remaining Guaranteed Payments

Primary Beneficiary Name: Social Security Number: Relationship: Date of Birth: / /

Mailing Address: (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Contingent Beneficiary Name: Social Security Number: Relationship: Date of Birth: / /

Mailing Address: (City) (State) (Zip Code)

To the MODOT and Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) Board of Trustees:

I hereby make application for retirement benefits to which I am entitled under the provisions of MPERS. If applicable, I agree to act as a special co-ordinator and to abide by the provisions of the statute by being available to give papers in writing or orally, in response to requests by the Board. I understand that I have no additional prior service credit that I wish to purchase or transfer to MPERS. I understand these elections cannot be changed after my first benefit payment has been made. I understand this notification will be null and void.

Member Signature: Date:

Spouse's Signature: Date:

9/16 See reverse side for important information!

Step Two Packet

A hand with a red bow on the index finger points to the word "Reminder" written in a cursive font. The background is light yellow with black dashed lines radiating from the hand and text.

Upcoming Events

- 10 - Columbus Day, office open
- 19 - Mid-Career Webinar for Closed Plan and Year 2000 Plan members [Register Here](#)
- 31 - Deadline to submit step 1 -*Notice of Retirement* for December 1 retirement



We value your feedback!

What would you like to see in ***The Pensioner: Looking Forward?***

Send comments and suggestions to Julie.West@mpers.org.